

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-05

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-12 FPC-01

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /205 W

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R 031146Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9329

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSR AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSR KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

T

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O O F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7775

3.T. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, PFOR,US, EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN POSITION ON

US/ARAB OIL PRICING CONFRONTATION

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1. IN PRESENT STAGE OF US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP, GOE IS NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING ISSUE OF OF WHAT OTHER ARAB STATES SEE AS CONFRONTATION WITH INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, LED BY U.S., OVER OIL PRICING ISSUE. IT IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF INTENSIFYING POLARIZATION BETWEEN CONSUMER AND PRODUCER STATES AND WANTS TO SEE END TO ISSUE WHICH IS BOTH EMBARRASSING AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS. IT WISHES TO BE HELPFUL TO US AND CONSUMER STATES, AS IT WAS LAST SPRING IN REMOVING THE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT.

2. NEVERTHELESS, GOE HAS FEW OPTIONS AVAILABLE, IF INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS INFLUENCE AMONG OTHER ARAB (AND THIS IS POLICY DOGMA), IT MUST TAKE PUBLIC POSITIONS GENERALLY PARALLEL WITH THOSE OF SAUDI ARABIA AND OIL PRODUCERS, HOWEVER RELUCTANT TO LOW-KEYED ITS POLEMIC MIGHT BE.

3. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAS OCCURRED OVER PAST TEN DAYS. EGYPTIAN PRESS, WHICH CONTINUES TO TAKE GOE GUIDANCE ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, DELAYED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE PUBLISHING STATEMENTS BY OPEC COUNTRIES REACTING TO ASSUMED CONSUMER STATE THREATS TO OIL PRODUCERS OVER THEIR PRICING POLICIES. STRONGLY CRITICAL TENOR OF BEIRUT AND OTHER ARAB NEWSPAPERS HAS NOT CHARACTERIZED CAIRO

PRESS ARTICLES, HOWEVER, AND US HAS BEEN GENERALLY AVOIDED AS SPECIFIC TARGET OF ATTENTION.

4. NEVERTHESS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SADAT WENT ON PUBLIC RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 28 TO CHIDE INDUSTRIAL STATES FOR COMPLAINING WHEN LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND WORKS AGAINST THEM. HIS REMARKS WERE MODERATE BUT WERE FOLLOWED BY STRONGER POSITION TAKEN BY FAHMY

AT UNGA, AND BY INCREASING NUMBER OF ARTICLES ON SUBJECT. MOST RECENT IS EDITORIAL OCTOBER 3 IN AHRAM CALLING ON CONSUMERS TO SUE WISDOM RATHER THAN THREATS, AND TAKING NOTE OF "RISING VOICES" CALLING FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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From: CAIRO
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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